

Carnforth Urban District Council



ACKD. BY

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF
HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1963



Carnforth Urban District Council



REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF

HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1963



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29093569>

CARNFORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

—:O:—

Chairman of the Council :

A. Barber, Esq.

Vice-Chairman :

J. E. Roberts, Esq., J.P.

Members :

R. Byram, Esq., J.P.

E. Russell, Esq.

J. Newton, Esq.

W. Shaw, Esq.

W. C. Francis, Esq.

C. Jeremy, Esq. (From 22-5-63).

J. Edgar Miss (From 22-5-63).

D. Carr, Esq.

(Resigned—16-1-63)

P. N. Edsforth, Esq.

(Resigned—21-5-63)

J. Power, Esq. (From 22-5-63).

J. Green, Esq. (From 22-5-63).

W. Rogerson, Esq.

(From 22-5-63).

Clerk of the Council :

A. Haycock, D.M.A.

Medical Officer of Health :

R. W. Farquhar, B.Sc. (Agric.) M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector :

F. O. Waterhouse

C O N T E N T S

—:o:—

SECTION A.	STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.	Page 7
SECTION B.	GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.	Page 12
SECTION C.	PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.	Page 16
SECTION D.	SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.	Page 19

Carnforth Urban District Council

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1963

To the Chairman and Members of the
Carnforth Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1963 on the health, sanitary conditions and circumstances of Carnforth Urban District.

The Registrar General estimates the population of the Urban District at mid-year 1963, at 4,080, an increase of 10 on the previous year. The 1961 census population was 4,113 compared with the previous census figure of 3,388 in 1951.

There were 70 live births registered during the year equivalent to an adjusted birth rate of 17.8 per 1,000 population. The rate for England and Wales was 18.2 per 1,000.

Deaths from all causes totalled 42, 13 fewer than in the previous year. This represented an adjusted death rate of 11.8 per 1,000 population, which was below the national rate of 12.2 per 1,000. The commonest single cause of death continues to be coronary heart disease which accounted for half the total of deaths in 1963.

It is pleasing to report that there has been no death associated with childbirth since 1954. Only one infant death occurred, giving an infant mortality rate of 14.3 per 1,000 live births compared with an average of 18.9 over the previous five years. The infant death rate for England and Wales as a whole in 1963 was 20.8 per 1,000 live births.

Apart from a moderate outbreak of measles in pre-school children resulting in 65 notified cases the incidence of infectious diseases was low and the general health of the inhabitants of the town remained satisfactory.

The regular inspection of houses, factories, shops and food premises, the systematic sampling of milk and water, the maintenance of efficient sewerage and refuse disposal systems—these seldom bring spectacular results, but nevertheless the maintenance of healthy living and working conditions in the community largely depends on these routine duties of the Public Health Inspector.

Slow but steady progress continues to be made in modernising the older types of owner-occupied houses through the “standard” and “discretionary” grant procedure under the Housing Acts.

It is to be hoped that the long awaited arrangements for the combined sewerage scheme serving Carnforth and parts of Lancaster Rural District will be finalised at an early date.

Yours faithfully,

R. W. FARQUHAR,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

**STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA.**

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

AREA of the District (Acres)	1,504
POPULATION (Census 1931)	3,139
„ (Census 1951)	3,388
„ (Census 1961)	4,113
„ (Registrar General's Estimate Mid/1963)	4,080
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1951)	1,095
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1963)	1,327
RATEABLE VALUE	£105,571
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	£396

—:O:—

SOCIAL CONDITIONS INCLUDING CHIEF OCCUPATIONS OF INHABITANTS

The social conditions of the District are very satisfactory. The chief occupations of the inhabitants are Railway and Agricultural Work.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS—1963

	Males	Females	Total
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate)	33	35	68
(Illegitimate)	1	1	2
TOTAL	34	36	70
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population			17.2
Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population			17.8
STILL BIRTHS—No. Registered	—	—	Nil
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			Nil
DEATHS (All Causes) No. registered	28	14	42
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population			10.3
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population			11.8
DEATHS FROM CERTAIN SPECIFIED CAUSES :—			
Heart Disease (all forms)	16	7	23
Cancer (all forms)	4	—	4
Accidents (all forms)	1	—	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis	—	—	Nil
DEATHS FROM MATERNAL CAUSES			Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births			Nil
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE	—	1	1
Total Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births			14.3
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE	—	1	1
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births			14.3
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE	—	1	1
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births			14.3
STILL BIRTHS PLUS FIRST WEEK DEATHS	—	1	1
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births ...			14.3

TABLE SHOWING CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES
OF DEATH DURING 1963

	M	F	Total
Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm of stomach	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm of lung etc.	3	—	3
Malignant neoplasm of breast	—	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	—	1
Diabetes	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of the nervous system ...	2	4	6
Coronary disease, angina	15	6	21
Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	—
Other heart diseases	1	1	2
Other circulatory diseases	3	—	3
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—
Bronchitis	—	—	—
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	1	—	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Congenital malformations	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	—	2	2
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—
All other accidents	1	—	1
Suicide	—	—	—
	28	14	42

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1963 AND THE PERIOD 1958-62

	Live births		Deaths (all causes)		Still Births		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	Total		Neo-natal	
Year 1963	70	*17.2	42	10.3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	14.3	1	14.3
“ 1962	62	15.2	55	13.5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	16.1	1	16.1
Year 1961	65	15.9	48	11.7	1	15.2	Nil	Nil	1	15.4	1	15.4
“ 1960	80	20.4	44	11.2	2	24.4	Nil	Nil	1	12.5	1	12.5
“ 1959	81	20.8	31	7.9	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	3	37.0	3	37.0
“ 1958	72	18.6	44	11.4	1	13.7	Nil	Nil	1	13.9	1	13.9
Average 1958-62		18.18		11.14		10.66		Nil		18.98		18.98

*1963 Adjusted live birth rate (comparability factor 1.04)=17.8
Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 1.15)=11.8

**GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA.**

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

In sections C and D of the report full details will be found relating to infectious diseases and environmental health within the Carnforth Urban District, for which services the Council are directly responsible.

The present section is related to those health services which concern mainly the personal health and welfare of the individual rather than public health and the community. Divisional Health Committee No. 2 of the Lancashire County Council, on which committee your Council has one representative, is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the following services, available to the inhabitants of Carnforth as well as to those of neighbouring districts.

(1) Domiciliary Services.

For the benefit of residents in the area two district nurse/midwives are resident in Carnforth, others being available nearby at Yealand Redmayne and Bolton-le-Sands. Four health visitors, who are also trained nurses, are centred on the School Clinic in Market Street. Several Home Helps are resident in Carnforth and Warton.

(2) Care of Mothers and Young Children.

This service is closely correlated with the domiciliary midwifery, health visiting and domestic help services, by which means the mother can receive advice and care for herself and her child as well as help in the home during and after her confinement.

During 1963 the average attendance at the Carnforth child welfare centre was 36.1 children per weekly session.

(3) Combined School Clinic and Child Welfare Centre.

At 21 Market Street, Carnforth, in addition to the child welfare session on Tuesday afternoons (2—4 p.m.) a minor ailment clinic for school children is held on Friday mornings (9-30—11-30 a.m.). An eye clinic is held on alternate Wednesday mornings, and a dental clinic on each Tuesday and Thursday all day. A clinic is held every Thursday afternoon at which expectant mothers attend for relaxation, exercises and the teaching of mothercraft.

(4) Immunisation and Vaccination.

Immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, and vaccination against smallpox are free services, available either from the family doctor or through the school clinic. Since 1956 vaccination against poliomyelitis and tuberculosis has also been available to children in certain age groups.

(5) Ambulance Service.

The Carnforth area is served by ambulances based on the Lancaster and Morecambe stations.

(6) Other Services.

Certain other services are organised on a divisional basis, without allocation of staff to particular areas. Thus 4 mental health workers and one tuberculosis health visitor cover the whole division. The arrangements for sending persons recovering from illness to convalescent homes are made through the Divisional Health Office, Lancaster.

(7) Welfare Services—National Assistance Act, 1948.

The following welfare services are also administered by the Divisional Health Committee :—

- (a) Residential Accommodation : For persons in need of care and attention not otherwise available to them accommodation is provided at Dolphinlee, The Laurels and Fair Elms at Lancaster ; at the Empress Hostel, Morecambe ; Moor Platt and The Hermitage at Caton.
- (b) Temporary Accommodation : In case of urgent need, e.g. fire, flood or eviction, temporary shelter is provided by arrangement with the County Medical Officer of Health.
- (c) Handicapped Persons : For persons who are blind, deaf, or otherwise substantially and permanently handicapped, certain welfare services and facilities are made available, either through the agency of voluntary organisations or directly by the County Council.

(d) Homes for Disabled and/or Old Persons : There are six homes of this nature in the division, all managed by voluntary/or private bodies. These are registered and inspected regularly by the divisional medical staff.

(8) Laboratory Facilities.

The bacteriological examination of milk, water and specimens in connection with infectious diseases is carried out by Dr. Robertson and his staff at the Public Health Laboratory, Preston. Samples of water for chemical examination are sent to the Public Analyst at Preston. Analysis of food and drugs is carried out under the direction of the Lancashire County Council.

(9) Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The following clinics are administered by the Lancaster and Kendal Hospital Management Committee :—

- (a) Tuberculosis :—Chest Clinic, Beaumont Hospital, Lancaster.
- (b) Venereal Diseases :—Special Treatment Centre, Royal Lancaster Infirmary.
- (c) Deaf Aid Clinic :—A session for the provision of batteries and hearing aids is held at 21, Market Street, Carnforth, on the first Wednesday of each month.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

**NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than
Tuberculosis) CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1963**

Disease	Cases	Age Periods-Years								
		0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65- and over
Measles	65	1	11	15	38	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Cases	66	1	12	15	38	-	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

During 1963 there was one new case of tuberculosis but no deaths from this disease were recorded.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Since 1948 only one case of diphtheria has been notified in Carnforth. The young mothers of to-day do not realise the danger of this disease but localised outbreaks still occur sporadically in this country. The present immunisation and vaccination programme now affords a considerable degree of protection against six diseases—diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis and smallpox, and it is important that every advantage be taken of this service so as to ensure a high level of immunity in the population.

In the following table the numbers of Carnforth children immunised against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus in the last eight years are compared.

IMMUNISATION IN CARNFORTH — 1957—1963

Number of individuals who completed a full course of primary immunisation.

Age Group	Diphtheria			Whooping Cough			Tetanus		
	0-4	5-14	Total	0-4	5-14	Total	0-4	5-14	Total
1957	75	4	79	72	—	72	71	—	71
1958	73	7	80	74	2	76	66	1	67
1959	75	6	81	76	3	79	72	3	75
1960	95	8	103	92	2	94	92	7	99
1961	58	5	63	57	1	58	58	5	63
1962	60	1	61	60	—	60	60	1	61
1963	56	9	65	56	—	56	57	9	66

Number of individuals who were given a re-inforcement injection.

Age Groups	Diphtheria All ages	Whooping Cough All ages	Tetanus All ages
1957	70	12	2
1958	135	36	3
1959	141	19	5
1960	138	12	36
1961	138	18	78
1962	155	15	101
1963	182	18	102

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES
OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water, abundant in quantity, is supplied from the Lune Valley Water Board reservoir situated at Withnets, which has a capacity of 52 million gallons. It is chlorinated and filtered. 5 samples were submitted by the Local Authority for bacteriological analysis, 3 of which were reported to be highly satisfactory.

In addition, reports of 19 samples taken by the Board, indicate 7 as satisfactory and 12 as unsatisfactory. The variation of quality of samples taken is a matter which I have already raised with the Water Board, and it would appear that there is need for some further action, so as to ensure a continuity of bacteriologically sound supplies and a guarantee of adequate pressure to those parts (especially sections of the Housing Estate) where complete absence of water at certain periods of the day causes much inconvenience.

With the exception of 5 private houses and 2 farm houses, all permanent dwellings within the area are connected to the public water supply. In the case of 3 of the 5 private houses early mains connections are expected and the two remaining have a pure and wholesome supply of well water.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewerage of the whole area is by gravity. In general it is the "combined" system, though a "separate" system has been introduced to deal with a site of approximately 140 houses, whereby rainwater from roofs and roads is discharged to an open watercourse in order to avoid any additional loading of the Highfield and Kellet Road sewers.

The main portion of the town, which includes the area which has been used for post-war housing expansion, is sewered to a tank alongside the River Keer (a tidal stream) and after settling in this tank the effluent is subject to discharge on ebb tide. Two other sewage disposal plants deal with the remaining portion of the district (the Crag Bank area), each discharging the effluent into adjacent streams after sedimentation and filtration. The tidal tank referred to above undertakes no purification whatever, and is unsuitable as a disposal unit. During the previous year the Local Authority embarked upon the preparation of a new sewerage and sewage disposal scheme jointly with Lancaster R.D.C. and the planning of this scheme is proceeding, though there appear to be various stages of negotiation still to be dealt with.

PROVISION OF WATER CLOSETS, ETC.

With the exception of six premises, all dwellings (inclusive of farms) within the area have fresh water closets. Pail closets are provided in four cases without water closets.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The Council continue to tip at Cote Stones by agreement with the Lancaster Rural District Council and arrangements are very satisfactory to the Council.

A weekly collection of domestic refuse is made and trade refuse is collected from various premises. Approximately 1,700 bins per week are dealt with.

HOUSING.

During 1963 four houses have been built by private enterprise. There is very little activity within the area so far as housing development is concerned and it would appear that this form of development is taking place outside the Urban area, rather than within it.

The existing housing facilities are made up as follows :—

610 modern type.
458 cottage type
286 parlour type.

Further progress in house improvements has been made by owner-occupiers continuing to avail themselves of the "Standard" grants made to them by the Local Authority, 14 having been granted during the year. In addition one "Discretionary" Grant has been made.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

No. of premises inspected	68
Defects discovered	19
Defects remedied	19
Informal Notices served	19
Statutory Notices served	None

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are none in the area.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS AND FOOD PREMISES.

The three butchers in the area are obtaining carcase meat and offal from wholesale distributors outside Carnforth. It is inspected before despatch and as there are no local slaughter-houses within the area the problem of meat inspection at time of slaughter of animals does not arise.

Contact with the shops is, however, maintained, though there has been no occasion for the condemnation of any fresh or imported meat or offal during the year.

Small amounts of tinned foods, surrendered by shopkeepers, have been dealt with.

No fish arriving in the area has had to be certified as unfit for consumption.

MILK SUPPLY.

Action taken with regard to the administration of the Milk and Dairies Acts and Regulations.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949—

No. of distributors registered by the L.A. and operating from :—

(a) Dairies in the district	4
(b) Shops in the district other than dairies	4
(c) Premises outside the district	3

Action taken by the L.A. in relation to samples taken within the district.

A. Samples for Biological Examination

1963
RESULTS

	No. of Samples Submitted	Positive	Negative	No result
RESULTS	26			
(1) Tuberculosis		Nil	Nil	Nil
(2) Brucellosis—Ring Test		Nil	26	Nil
(3) Brucellosis—Culture Test		Nil	Nil	Nil
(4) Brucellosis—Biological Test		Nil	Nil	Nil

B. Samples for Statutory Test

RESULTS

	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Void Samples
Raw Milk				
(1) Methylene Blue Test	27	24	3	Nil
Heat Treated Milk				
(1) Methylene Blue Test	6	6	Nil	Nil
(2) Phosphatase Test	6	6	Nil	Nil
(3) Turbidity Test	1	1	Nil	Nil

Results of Ministry Investigations	Nil
No. of herds examined by veterinary inspectors	Nil
No. of cases where animals seized under Tuberculosis Order, 1938	Nil
No. of animals seized	Nil
No. of cases reported negative where animals had been seized	Nil
No. of cases reported negative, no animals seized	Nil
Action taken under Regulation 19 of the M. and D. Regulations, 1949	None necessary
Action taken under Regulation 20 of the M. and D. Regulations, 1949	None necessary

ICE CREAM.

There are no premises in the district manufacturing ice cream by the heat treatment process and all premises registered for the sale of ice cream are satisfactory for the purpose.

FOOD POISONING.

There have been no outbreaks of food poisoning within the Urban District during the year.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council's area has been little affected by rats or mice and no notices have been required to enforce disinfestation.

The Sewers have shown themselves free on test baiting. The sewage disposal works are occasionally found infested, but they are treated when necessary and kept under control.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

There are none in the area.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 23 in number and all are of a small type. No conditions have been found calling for action and no reports received of non-compliance with the Act.

